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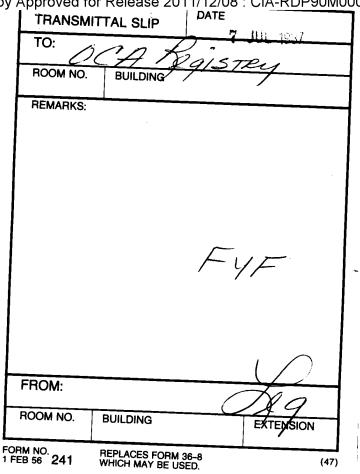
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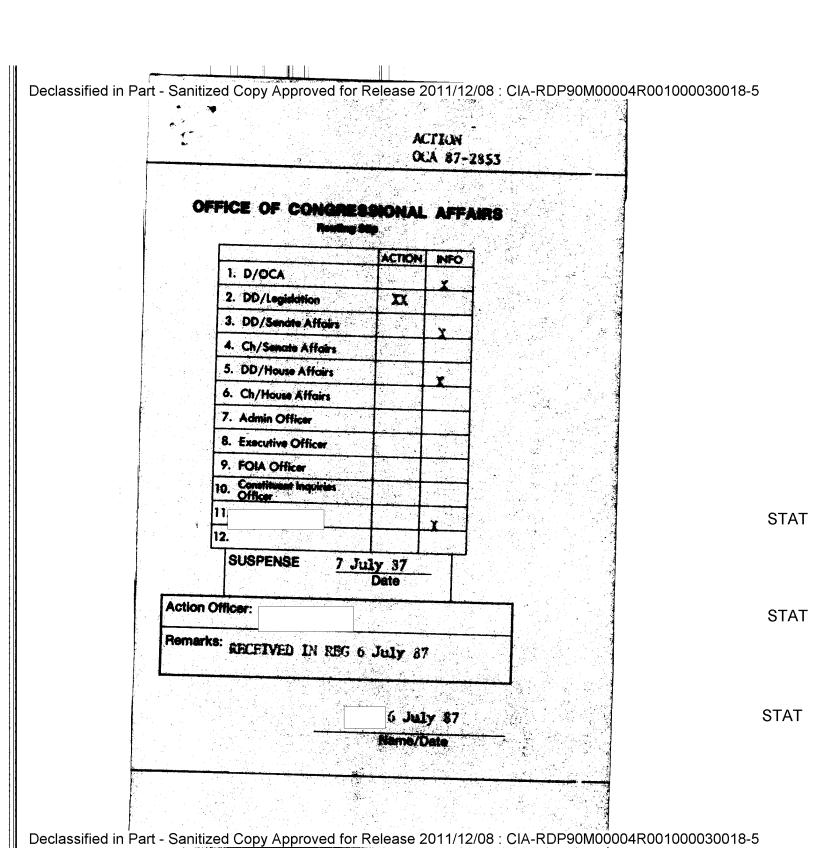
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

87-2853 SPECIAL

July 6, 1987

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO:

Legislative Liaison Officer -

Department of Justice (Perkins 633-2113)
Department of State (Howdershell 647-4463)
Control Intolligence Agency

Central Intelligence Agency National Security Council 17 25

SUBJECT: Defense draft report on H.R. 2260, "To direct the Federal departments and agencies holding records concerning reported live sightings of American military personnel classified as prisoners of war or missing in action in Southeast Asia to make such records available to the public."

The Office of Management and Budget requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

A response to this request for your views is needed no later than COB, TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1987.

Questions should be referred to Annette Rooney/Sue Thau (395-7300), the legislative analyst in this office.

RONALD K. PETERSON for Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

Enclosures

cc: J. Cooney

B. Howard

R. Neely

SPECIAL

Honorable Dante B. Fascell Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 28515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your request of May 26, 1987 for the views of the Secretary of Defense on H.R. 2266, 1984th Congress, a bill "To direct the Federal departments and agencies holding records concerning reported live sightings of American military personnel classified as prisoners of war or missing in action in Southeast Asia to make such records available to the public."

H.R. 2260 would require the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), the focal point for POW/MIA information, to declassify all DIA-originated records concerning live sighting reports of possible Americans still missing or unaccounted for in Southeast Asia and to seek declassification by the Services, the Joint Canualty Résolution Center, and other involved intelligence agencies of relevant documents originated by these organizations.

This legislation would adversely impact the ability of U.S. Government intelligence agencies to collect and investigate information pertaining to Americans missing and unaccounted for in Indochina. Even if sources, collection disciplines and investigatory methods are excluded from declassification, there are instances where it is obvious that the substance of a report could have only originated with a specific individual or been collected in a certain manner, thus being sufficient in itself to reveal the source or the collection method. more importantly, we must preclude exposing our degree of knowledge and our investigatory/analytical techniques to those against whom we are collecting, the governments of Indochina, so as not to enable them to negate or reduce the intelligence community's ability to check out future POW/MIA reports. If released without accompanying DIA analysis, raw POW/MIA information would be meaningless and, worse yet, subject to imaginative interpretation in the hands of unqualified amateurs lacking the ability or means to investigate and analyze properly. To even begin to try to implement the proposed legislation within the 30-day period stipulated, DIA would be forced to concentrate solely on this proposed project to the total detriment of its

